



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Health Administration
Illiana Health Care System

Doctoral Internship in Psychology Training Program 2022-2023

VA Illiana Health Care System

Mental Health Service (116)
1900 East Main Street
Danville, IL 61832

https://www.danville.va.gov/careers/Psychology_Internship_and_Practicum_Program.asp

APPIC Match Numbers:

126911 PTSD Clinical
126912 Standard Clinical
126913 Neuropsychology

Applications Due: November 15, 2021

Accreditation Status:

Our internship in Clinical Psychology at the VA Illiana Health Care System has been fully accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of the American Psychological Association since 12/1/76. Our most recent site visit took place in July 2018 and we are reaccredited through 2028.

Questions related to the program's accredited status should be directed to the Commission on Accreditation:

Office of Program Consultation and Accreditation
American Psychological Association
750 1st Street, NE, Washington, DC 2002
Phone: (202) 336-5979
E-mail: apaaccred@apa.org
Internet: <https://accreditation.apa.org/>

Table of Contents:

[Psychology Setting](#)

[Living in the Danville Area](#)

[Initial Post-Internship Positions](#)

[Application and Selection Procedures](#)

[Eligibility for VA Employment](#)

[Eligibility for Application to Internship Program](#)

[Application Requirements](#)

[Nondiscrimination Policy](#)

[Interview and Matching Process](#)

[Appointment Guidelines](#)

[Training Model and Program Philosophy](#)

[Veteran Care Functions](#)

[Program Aims and Objectives](#)

[Program Structure](#)

[Supervisory Assignments](#)

[Training Experiences](#)

[Internship Tracks](#)

[Rotation Options](#)

[Behavioral Health Interdisciplinary Program \(BHIP\)](#)

[Geropsychology](#)

[Health Psychology](#)

[Primary Care Mental Health Integration](#)

[Pain Psychology](#)

[Health Promotion/Disease Prevention](#)

[Home Based Primary Care \(HBPC\)](#)

[Inpatient Psychology](#)

[Neuropsychology](#)

[PTSD Clinic](#)

[Psychosocial Residential Recovery Treatment Program \(PR RTP\)](#)

[Substance Abuse Rehabilitation Program \(SARP\)](#)

[Community Based Outpatient Clinic \(CBOC\)](#)

[Example Intern Placement Schedule](#)

[Additional Training Experiences](#)

[Facility and Training Resources](#)

[Requirements for Completion](#)

[Administrative Policies and Procedures](#)

[Training Staff](#)

Setting

About the VA Illiana Health Care System:

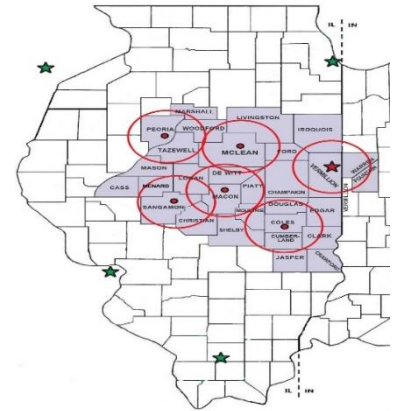


The VA Illiana Health Care System (VAIHCS) is an academic medical center that is affiliated with the University of Illinois and Carle Hospital. We are privileged to provide primary and secondary medical care, surgical care, acute psychiatric care, extended long-term care with skilled nursing, physical rehabilitation, palliative care, and integrated dementia care for those who have honorably served our country. The main campus is located in Danville, Illinois, with a full-service outpatient clinic in Peoria, Illinois and community-based outpatient clinics in Bloomington, Decatur, Mattoon, and Springfield Illinois.

The VA Illiana Health Care System was one of the original hospitals or “homes” established after the Civil War, with the location opening in 1898. At one time during its history, the Danville “home” served nearly 4,000 soldiers. Although the resident population has decreased appreciably since that time, the services and physical aesthetics have expanded and improved. The name was changed from “Danville VA” to "VA Illiana Health Care System" in 2001. Major modernization and construction have occurred since that time, leading to the development of a full range of medical services.



The 215-acre Medical Center grounds are beautifully landscaped with wooded areas, spacious lawns, lake, gardens, and picnic areas. There are nearly three miles of concrete walkways, making all parts of the park-like grounds accessible to Veterans, staff, and visitors. We also have an extensive online library, canteen shop, cafeteria, chapel, healing gardens, regulation bowling alley, and gym. The VA Illiana HCS also shares its grounds with the Danville National Cemetery, which is currently on the National Register of Historic Places.



The VAIHCS offers rich opportunities to work with highly rural and underserved Veterans. The catchment area covers several hundred square miles of rural Illinois and can take up to four hours to reach the Danville, Illinois medical clinic. There are 29 counties that are served by the VAIHCS, with 18 of those being classified as “rural” by the census. The VAIHCS is well suited to provide broad generalist training to those interested in contributing to the expansion of the mental health services in rural areas, which are often under-resourced and disadvantaged. Interns will have the opportunity to work creatively with staff to meet the varied and critical needs of a Veteran population who often suffer with complex medical and mental health conditions amid a myriad of psychosocial stressors. Interns will learn ways of overcoming the many obstacles that go with rurality and poverty and development of these skills is a priority of the VAIHCS internship program. Throughout the training year, interns get experience providing services to individuals who may have different personal/cultural history and views. To assist interns in navigating individual and cultural differences with both clients and coworkers, our internship program provides numerous didactic seminars and discussion hours devoted to individual and cultural diversity.

The VAIHCS also places considerable emphasis on the education and training, particularly within an interdisciplinary setting. Professional training is not only provided to psychology students but also to students of the following specialty areas: psychiatry, audiology and speech pathology, dietetics, general medicine, nursing, occupational therapy, optometry, physician assistant (PA), pharmacy, physical therapy, podiatry, recreation therapy, music therapy, and social work.





The Central Illinois Area

The main campus of the VAIHCS is located in Danville, Illinois. The city of Danville has a population of approximately 33,000 and is centrally located between Indianapolis Indiana, Chicago Illinois, and Saint Louis Missouri. The city of Danville maintains eight parks and recreation areas. Three county parks and a state recreation area provide campgrounds, picnic sites, fishponds, hiking trails, scenic views and other attractions for the entire east-central Illinois area. Recent attractions in the Danville area include the Balloons over Vermilion festival, the Festival of Trees, the Summer Sounds Concert series, local Pride events, and the Covered Bridge Festival.

The VAIHCS is located near several major Universities, with the University of Illinois- Urbana/Champaign, a Big 10 conference member, being the largest in the immediate area. Other nearby universities include Indiana State University and Purdue University.



Danville is proud of its community symphony, theater, light opera guild, choral societies, and art league. The city has numerous murals and art installations that depict its reach history. The Krannert Center for Performing Arts and the Assembly Hall at the University of Illinois provide the settings for performances by internationally renowned entertainment. The area includes several historic theaters that feature both locally and nationally renowned films, musicians, comedians, and theatre acts. Danville is also proud of their baseball team, the Danville Dans, and their hockey team, the Vermilion County Bobcats. Champaign, Illinois also hosts its annual Illinois Marathon.

As a bonus to all this, Danville comes with a low cost of living!



Internship Admissions, Support, and Initial Placement Data

Initial Post-Internship Positions

Aggregated Tally for the Preceding 3 Cohorts: **2019-2021**

Total number of interns who were in the three cohorts: **15**

Total number of interns who did not seek employment because they returned to their doctoral program/are completing doctoral degree: **1**

	Postdoc Position (PD)	Employment Position (EP)
Community mental health center	0	0
Federally qualified health center	0	0
Independent primary care facility/clinic	0	0
University counseling center	1	0
Veterans Affairs Health Care System	0	3
Military health center	0	0
Academic health center	3	0
Other Health Care System or hospital	3	0
Psychiatric hospital	0	0
Academic university/department	0	0
Community college or other teaching setting	0	0
Independent research institution	0	0
Correctional facility	0	0
School district/system	0	0
Independent practice setting	1	1
Not currently employed	0	2
Changed to another field	0	0
Other	0	0
Unknown	0	0

Note: “PD” = Post-doctoral residency position; “EP” = Employed Position. Each individual represented in this table should be counted only one time. For former trainees working in more than one setting, select the setting that presents their primary position.

Application and Selection Procedures

Date Program Tables are Updated: 7/30/2021

Briefly describe in narrative form important information to assist potential applicants in assessing their likely fit with your program. This description must be consistent with the program's policies on intern selection and practicum and academic preparation requirements:

Eligibility for VA Employment

1. U.S. citizenship. VA is unable to consider applications from anyone who is not currently a U.S. citizen. Verification of citizenship is required following selection.
2. U.S. Social Security Number. All VA appointees must have a U.S. social security number (SSN) prior to beginning the pre-employment, on-boarding process at the VA.
3. A male applicant born after 12/31/1959 must have registered for the draft by age 26 to be eligible for any US government employment, including selection as a paid VA intern.
4. Interns are subject to fingerprinting and background checks. Match result and selection decisions are contingent on passing these screens.
5. VA conducts drug screening exams on randomly selected personnel as well as new employees. Interns are subject to random selection for testing as are other employees.
6. To ensure shared responsibility between an academic program and the VA, there must be a current and fully executed Academic Affiliation Agreement on file with the VHA Office of Academic Affiliations (OAA). Most APA-accredited doctoral programs have an agreement on file.
7. TQCVL. To streamline the boarding process, VHA Office of Academic Affiliations requires completion of a Trainee Qualifications and Credentials Verification Letter (TQCVL). An Educational Official at the Affiliate must complete and sign this letter.
8. VA training occurs in a health care setting; some of the Veterans served by VA are elderly or infirm and could succumb to common illnesses like influenza. It is important to be able to document that your vaccinations are up to date. Additionally, maintaining a current flu vaccination during the training year (or taking additional preventative measures to limit patient exposure to the flu) will be required.

Eligibility for Application to Internship Program

1. Doctoral student in good standing at an American Psychological Association (APA) or Canadian Psychological Association (CPA) accredited graduate program in Clinical, Counseling, or Combined psychology or Psychological Clinical Science Accreditation System (PCSAS) accredited program in Clinical Science. Persons with a doctorate in another area of psychology who meet the APA or CPA criteria for re-specialization training in Clinical, Counseling, or Combined Psychology are also eligible.
2. A minimum of 250 direct intervention and 50 direct assessment hours of documented, psychologist supervised direct client contact hours. These hours must be through practicum experience within an APA doctoral program in counseling or clinical psychology.
3. Completion of comprehensive examinations by submission of application.
4. Completion of dissertation proposal by submission of application.
5. Written verification by the Training Director of the doctoral program that the individual is approved for internship status by the Department.

6. All coursework must be completed prior to beginning the internship.
7. Completion of a minimum of two WAIS administrations with scoring and written report. WISC is also acceptable for meeting this requirement.
8. Completion of a minimum of two MMPI-2/MMPI-2-RF administrations with scoring and integrated reports. MCMI or PAI are also acceptable for meeting this requirement.

Selection Process

A selection committee composed of psychologists involved in training reviews each application. Applicants may seek consideration for one or multiple tracks but must specify in the materials which tracks the intern would like to be considered. We seek applicants who have a sound clinical and scientific knowledge base from their academic program, strong basic skills in assessment and intervention as well as the personal characteristics necessary to function well in our internship setting. Our selection criteria are based on a "goodness-of-fit" with our tutorial-apprenticeship model, and we look for interns whose training goals match the training that we offer. The VA Illiana Health Care System in which our training program resides is an Equal Opportunity Employer; we are committed to ensuring a range of diversity among our training classes, and we select candidates representing different kinds of programs and theoretical orientations, geographic areas, ages, racial and ethnic backgrounds, sexual orientations, disabilities, and life experiences. All things being equal, consideration is given to applicants who identify themselves as Veterans; as members of historically underrepresented groups on the basis of racial or ethnic status; as representing diversity on the basis of sexual orientation; or as representing diversity on the basis of disability status.

Does the program or institution require students, trainees, and/or staff (faculty) to comply with specific policies or practices related to the institution's affiliation or purpose? Such policies or practices may include, but are not limited to, admissions, hiring, retention policies, and/or requirements for completion that express mission and values.

- No

Does the program require that applicants have received a minimum number of hours of the following at time of application? If Yes, indicate how many:

- Total Direct Contact Intervention Hours: Yes – **250 Hours**
- Total Direct Contact Assessment Hours: Yes – **50 Hours**

Describe any other required minimum criteria used to screen applicants:

- See eligibility criteria above for additional screening criteria.

Application Requirements

The VAIHCS Psychology Internship participates in the APPIC Uniform Application Process, which can be accessed at <http://www.appic.org>.

We require the following information as part of your application:

1. Online APPIC Application for Psychology Internship (AAPI) submitted through the APPIC, including official transcripts
2. Verification of Internship Eligibility and Readiness form to be completed online from your doctoral program's training director
3. A cover letter which states:
 - a. Which clinical track you are applying (Standard Clinical, PTSD, Neuropsychology)
 - b. A ranked list of the three placement rotations that you would like to select for your internship year (selections to be used to help match interviewers with interns, but are not guaranteed if selected as an intern)
4. Three letters of recommendation, with at least two of these from clinical/counseling supervisors
5. A de-identified treatment or case summary
6. A de-identified psychological assessment report (students applying to the neuropsychology track should submit a neuropsychological assessment report)

All materials must be submitted through the online APPIC application process. No materials will be accepted through email or postal mail. **The application deadline is November 15, 2021.** Questions regarding our training program or our application process should be directed to:

Director of Internship Training
Julia Fitzgerald Smith, PhD, ABPP
VA Illiana Health Care System
1900 East Main Street
Danville, IL 61832
Julia.FitzgeraldSmith@va.gov
(217) 554-5338

Associate Director of Internship Training
Patricia Smithmyer, PsyD
VA Illiana Health Care System
1900 East Main Street
Danville, IL 61832
Patricia.Smithmyer@va.gov
(217) 554-4605

Nondiscrimination Policy

We believe that diversity among departmental members strengthens our staff, stimulates creativity, promotes the exchange of ideas, and allows us to provide more sensitive and effective patient care. We welcome diversity in our internship class, and we warmly encourage minorities and persons of diverse backgrounds of all types to apply to the VAIHCS internship. Equal opportunity laws and Department of Veterans Affairs regulations prohibit discrimination based upon race, color, national origin, limited English proficiency, age, sex, handicap or reprisal. This applies to all programs or activities conducted by VHA. The VAIHCS Psychology Internship Program adheres strictly to all federal and local non-discrimination laws and policies.

Interview and Matching Process

We will invite top applicants to participate in a half-day (morning and afternoon options) interview. In an effort to reduce barriers in accessing our program, to promote equity in interviewing, and encourage diversity in applicants, the VAIHCS offers in-person, tele-video, and phone interviews to qualified applicants. An interview via one of these modalities is required of all applicants who make the final selection round. The type of modality selected will not be a consideration into our rank list and truly is up to the candidate. We have talked with our current interns and there was a split preference between virtual and in person interviews. So to meet the interests of both groups, we offer both options. We have read through the APPIC applicant survey data that discussed that applicants may feel concerned that choosing a virtual option would negatively affect the program's ranking of them. Our program has ranked and matched very successful applicants from phone, virtual, and in person interviews. We truly do not have a preference and want applicants to make the choice that matches their preference and is best for their current situation. The pandemic allowed us to tweak our virtual interview skills and staff found that they worked very well to interview applicants. Our interview notification date is **December 3rd**. Performance-based interviews will be conducted over three days in December and January (**Tuesday December 14th Virtual, Wednesday January 12th Virtual, and Tuesday January 18th In-person**). All invitation emails are released at the same time, to allow for equal opportunity to schedule a preferred interview date. As there are a limited number of spots available on each day and we may not be able to accommodate an applicant's first date choice, we ask the applicant also to specify alternate day preferences. Interview day appointments will be determined by the order in which emails are received.

Two training staff psychologists will interview each applicant. There will also be an opportunity to complete a virtual tour of the facility, meet with our current interns, meet with potential supervisors and have the opportunity to ask questions in a group online setting, and hear about our VA, rotations, and supervisors in a group presentation. Applicants will also have the opportunity to meet with the Directors of Internship Training for a brief informational session. If Microsoft Teams/WebEx or in-person interview is not possible, arrangements may be made for a telephone interview on Thursday January 20th.

The VA Illiana Health Care System training program will closely adhere to guidelines put forth by APA, VA, and APPIC. As required under APPIC policies, offers to interns may not be made before Match Day. All applicants must be registered with National Matching Services, Inc. NMS Applicant Agreement packages can be obtained at www.natmatch.com/psychint.

Appointment Guidelines

Effective Date of Appointment: Internship at the VA Illiana Health Care System will begin on Monday July 18, 2022. The effective date of appointment is the date the intern's pay begins. All appointments are for a continuous period of 365 days. Interns may expect to be on duty during the regular workweek from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm or 7:30 am to 4:00 pm, depending on their supervisors' schedule. Interns will receive a salary of \$26,297. Interns are not entitled to overtime pay, holiday pay, or compensatory time for hours worked in excess of eight hours in a day or 40 hours in a week. The maximum number of training hours allocated is 2000, including

paid annual leave and excused holidays. Interns are encouraged to utilize their annual leave as it accrues, so that lump-sum annual leave payments are not required. Interns are also entitled to the paid sick leave. Leave arrangements must be approved for interns by the responsible Supervisor and the Director of Internship Training in consideration of their schedule. Interns are also eligible to participate in the Federal group life and health insurance programs.

Financial and Other Benefit Support for Upcoming Training Year*

- Annual Stipend/Salary for Full-time interns: \$26,297
- Annual Stipend/Salary for Half-time interns: NA
- Program provides access to medical insurance for intern? Yes

If access to medical insurance is provided:

- Trainee contribution to cost required? Yes
- Coverage of family member(s) available? Yes
- Coverage of legally married partner available? Yes
- Coverage of domestic partner available? No
- Hours of Annual Paid Personal Time Off (PTO and/or Vacation): 104
- Hours of Annual Paid Sick Leave: 104
- In the event of medical conditions and/or family needs that require extended leave, does the program allow reasonable unpaid leave to interns/residents in excess of personal time off and sick leave? Yes

Other Benefits (please describe): NA

*Note. Programs are not required by the Commission on Accreditation to provide all benefits listed in this table

Training Model and Program Philosophy

The Psychology Training Program has the aim of assisting interns in the development of the knowledge, skills, and techniques necessary to function as professional psychologists. Our program utilizes a practitioner/scientist model in that the emphasis is placed on the clinical work an intern might perform. Veteran care activities, such as assessment and evidence-based intervention, are typically given a higher priority than more academic pursuits, such as research and teaching. This is not because we devalue these skills; rather, it is because we perceive our site better suited to providing training in clinical interventions and assessments. The primary method used to achieve this goal is based on the tutorial-apprenticeship model. Interns work with their primary supervisor to create a clinical experience to meet their individual needs, participating directly in the work of their primary supervisor. The exact nature of the experience depends upon the intern-supervisor mix as we try to individualize training as much as possible to meet the needs of our Veterans and to provide our interns with rich learning opportunities. Our program views central aspects of training, from assessment to intervention to issues of diversity, to be best addressed "in action" and "in context." Thus, our training focuses on aspects of diversity salient and present in our local Veteran culture and region. Interns are asked to apply

their knowledge of psychological science, individual differences, and group/cultural diversity directly within their patient care settings. Our tutorial-apprenticeship model is supplemented by a series of seminars, teleconferences, grand rounds, and webinars.

The Psychology training staff enthusiastically supports the VAIHCS mission to honor Veterans by providing exceptional health care that improves their health and well-being. The Psychology staff is comprised of 25 doctoral-level psychologists, as well as a number of psychology technicians and addiction therapists.

Veteran Care Functions:

Veteran care functions encompass all the empirically accepted psychological diagnostic and treatment procedures. Most Psychology staff members are assigned primarily to specific units or neighborhoods of the medical center where they provide a full range of psychological services to Veterans, their families, and their caregivers. Diagnostic clarification is completed through integrative interviews, psychological and neuropsychological testing, and mental status determination. Reviews of records, observational data, and integrated reports are also crucial aspects of Veteran care. Individual psychotherapy and group psychotherapy are conducted in the following modalities:

- Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT)
- Anger Management
- Anxiety Management
- Assertion Training
- Behavior Modification
- Biofeedback
- Brief Psychotherapy
- Client Centered Psychotherapy
- Cognitive Behavioral Conjoint Therapy for PTSD (CBCT)
- Cognitive Behavioral Therapy
- Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Depression (CBT-D)
- Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Insomnia (CBT-I)
- Cognitive Behavior Therapy for Chronic Pain (CBT-CP)
- Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT)
- Crisis Management
- Depression Management
- Dialectical Behavior Therapy
- Eclectic Psychotherapy
- Existential/Humanistic Therapy
- Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR)
- Family Therapy
- Grief Therapy
- Guided Imagery
- Healthy Living with Chronic Conditions
- Integrative Behavior Couples Therapy (IBCT)
- Marital Therapy
- Meaning Centered Psychotherapy
- MOVE: Weight Management
- Motivational Enhancement Therapy
- Motivational Interviewing
- Pain Management
- PAIRS: Relationship Enhancement Therapy
- Problem Solving Therapy
- Prolonged Exposure Therapy (PE)
- Rational Emotive Behavior Therapy (REBT)
- Relapse Prevention
- Relaxation Training
- Reminiscence Therapy
- Resources for Enhancing All Caregivers' Health (REACH-VA)
- Seeking Safety Treatment

- Skills Training in Affective and Interpersonal Regulation (STAIR)
- Smoking Cessation
- Social Skills Training (SST)
- STAR-VA Behavioral Management
- Stress Management
- Substance Abuse Rehabilitation
- Telehealth modality therapy
- Unified Protocol

Program Aims & Objectives

Our program requires that each intern demonstrate an intermediate to advanced level of professional psychological skills, abilities, proficiencies, competencies and knowledge in the areas of: a) Veteran conceptualization within a theoretical framework; b) methods of assessment and diagnostic clarification; c) effective treatments/interventions; d) methods of consultation, evaluation, and supervision; e) strategies of scholarly inquiry; and f) issues of cultural/individual diversity relevant to the above. The goal of these requirements is to produce entry-level graduate psychologists who can think critically about relevant theoretical and scientific literature and be able to apply this in their clinical and research work.

Program Structure

Training functions are directed toward the education and training of graduate students who are candidates for doctorates in clinical or counseling psychology. Our approach is student-centered, with a focus on work experience that parallels that of staff psychologists. These experiences are then supplemented by rotation specific and diversity readings, seminars, webinars, teleconferences, and grand rounds. The VAIHCS also has a practicum program for predoctoral psychology students with a variety of openings each year. Interns may have the possibility to provide supervision to practicum students; however, this cannot be guaranteed. Interns will have the opportunity to have a supervisory experience with each other, which is overseen by our Supervision Committee.

Psychology staff members are also active in the training of members of other disciplines, both informally through consultation and formally through seminars, classes, and workshops. There are monthly interdisciplinary didactics where trainees and staff from other disciplines collaboratively discuss topics beneficial for all disciplines.

Commitment to Diversity:

Within the Department of Psychology, our goal is to create a training environment that recognizes and values the inherent worth and dignity of every person. Our aim is to optimize the training experience through individual appreciation and clinical understanding of human diversity in all aspects of psychological practice. Our training program is committed to the ongoing process of developing multicultural competencies –for our trainees and ourselves as providers and trainers. This commitment is predicated on the belief that psychology practice is improved when we develop a broader and more compassionate view of our individual differences. We are committed to offering training experiences that provide opportunities for

trainees to expand their vision of the world and learn to understand the perspective of others more fully. For these various reasons, the internship program places a high value on attracting a diverse group of trainees and on maintaining an awareness of multicultural issues during the training year.

COVID-19 Impacts:

The COVID-19 pandemic has created numerous personal and professional challenges for all of us. The VAIHCS Psychology training program has prided itself on its transparency, providing detailed and accurate information about our program and training opportunities. That being said, we cannot definitively predict how specific rotations or adjunctive training experiences may evolve for the 2021-2022 or 2022-2023 training years. We do not expect there to be significant changes to the base clinical services or populations served through the rotations and adjunctive experiences described in our materials. Our dedication to high-quality clinical care, psychology training, and our interns remains strong and a cornerstone of our VA.

Supervisory Assignments

As part of the orientation process, new interns spend time with individual members of the Psychology training staff during their first week of duty. The intent is to provide supervisors and interns with the opportunity to become directly acquainted with each other's background, skills, interests, resources and for the supervisors to become acquainted with each intern's goals. This also provides new interns with an overview of the range of psychological activities within our health care system. At the end of the orientation period, the Directors of Internship Training, in consultation with the interns and training staff, finalize initial intern placements, taking into account staff resources along with intern needs and interests. Initial supervisory placements are usually decided during the end of the first week of the internship.

Interns will be supervised by more than one member of the training staff throughout the year. The number and character of the supervisory placements depends upon the background, needs, skills and goals of the individual intern. This generally is accomplished through three, four-month sequential placements. A secondary placement that runs concurrently with the primary placements can also be arranged with some rotations. A general guideline followed in making such arrangements is to provide the individual intern with the training and experience necessary to round out or complete the skills necessary for professional-level functioning. Our program refers to this model of training as "gaps before goals".

Supervision styles vary per placement and per supervisor. Monitoring is completed throughout each rotation to ensure that at least two hours of individual and four hours total of supervision is provided. Style of supervision typically includes face-to-face observation, but some supervisors also use video recording.

At this time, the VAIHCS does not have an IRB, which prohibits research with VAIHCS Veterans. However, each year, multiple interns successfully complete their dissertation during their internship through their graduate doctoral programs. Interns may be allowed 250 hours for their own dissertation research as long as other placement requirements are being met. Interns must be

on the grounds of the facility while completing these research hours and they must be approved by the Training Director.

Training Experiences

An intern has the opportunity to gain valuable experience and training by providing supervised psychological services to a wide variety of Veteran populations, including psychiatric, medical, surgical, geriatric, and neurological on both an inpatient and outpatient basis. These activities are performed under the direct supervision of the doctoral-level psychologists to whom the intern is assigned. The training experiences may include (but are not limited to): individual psychotherapy, group psychotherapy, treatment planning, psychological evaluations, standardized test administration, report writing, neuropsychological assessment, stress management, relaxation training, biofeedback, contingency management, case presentations, participation in staff meetings, supervision of practicum trainees, social skills training, family therapy, program development, program administration, and staff consultation.

Internship Tracks

There are three tracks to which interns can match, 1) a Neuropsychology track for those who will be pursuing a postdoctoral fellowship and career in Neuropsychology, 2) a Standard Clinical track for those seeking strong generalist training, or 3) a PTSD Clinical track for those planning to pursue postdoctoral training in PTSD and/or a career in trauma psychology.

If an intern matches with us on the Neuropsychology or PTSD Clinical Track, that intern is guaranteed a major rotation and training emphasis in that specific area. If an intern does not match with us on the Neuropsychology or PTSD Clinical Track, those placements will not be placement options. There will still be ample opportunity for assessment and trauma-focused work in other placements for those interested in further developing, but not specializing, in those areas. Applicants may apply to more than one track, but a single applicant cannot match with our internship on two separate tracks; thus, the major rotations of Neuropsychology and PTSD cannot be combined.

Rotation Options

It is typical for interns to have three primary placements that last for four months and run sequentially. These primary placements involve a number of training options that are specific to the rotation and its population. The rotations that are available are constructed around active Veteran care programs that are occurring within the VA Illiana Health Care System. These are subject to change based on Veteran need and supervisor availability. The following rotations are available for intern placements:

- Behavioral Health Interdisciplinary Program (BHIP)
- Geropsychology
- Health Psychology
- Home Based Primary Care (HBPC)

- Inpatient Psychology
- Neuropsychology
- Outpatient PTSD Clinic
- Psychosocial Residential Recovery Treatment Program (PRRTP)
- Substance Abuse Rehabilitation Program (SARP)
- Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC- Limited availability)

See additional information about each rotation listed below.

Behavioral Health Interdisciplinary Program (BHIP)

Potential Supervisors: [Dr. Aaron Michelson](#); [Dr. Jinxin Zhang](#)

Description: In this placement, psychology interns become members of a BHIP team in the Outpatient Mental Health Clinic. BHIP is a multidisciplinary team approach of mental health care professionals who provide comprehensive services to Veterans presenting with a wide variety of mental health issues. Team members include a clinical psychologist and social worker, who primarily provide individual psychotherapy, a psychiatrist, a mental health nurse practitioner, a mid-level prescriber, and a medical support assistant. Interns will primarily work with individual Veterans (adults generally between the ages of 23 to 78), but they may also have an opportunity to work with couples, families, and groups when appropriate. Psychological interventions range from intake assessments for psychotropic medication referrals to short-term and long-term individual psychotherapy, depending on the needs and goals of the Veteran. Supervision will be provided for a variety of therapeutic approaches, including Evidence Based Practices such as Cognitive Therapy, Integrative Behavioral Couples Therapy (ICBT), Motivational Interviewing (MI), and Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT). Interns may also gain experience with Cognitive Behavioral Therapy and Psychosocial Rehabilitation approaches tailored to Veterans with serious mental illnesses, such as Schizophrenia and Bipolar Disorder. Many Veterans seen in the outpatient mental health clinic have experienced military, sexual, and/or childhood trauma, and there may be an opportunity to learn about trauma-focused approaches such as Cognitive Processing Therapy and Prolonged Exposure. Although health psychology is not a primary training focus in BHIP, interns will likely work with Veterans struggling with co-morbid medical issues such as chronic pain, diabetes, and service-connected physical injuries. There is also the possibility of interns developing new groups, depending upon the intern's skills and interests.

Interns will be encouraged to develop their own integrative style and utilize appropriate therapeutic techniques to meet the needs of individual Veterans, while also being mindful of common factors that significantly impact the process and outcome of psychotherapy. BHIP is a good experience for interns who are not only seeking experience working within a multidisciplinary mental health treatment team, but also in a complex and diverse medical setting with a wide variety of programs, clinics, and providers. Due to the nature of outpatient psychotherapy, BHIP is recommended as an eight-month split placement with another placement or can supplement other placements.

Geropsychology

Potential Supervisor: [Dr. Robert Weise](#)

Description: In this placement, interns will have the opportunity to work with older adults receiving care through the Geriatrics & Rehabilitation Service. Training experiences will be largely serving the short-stay and long-stay Veterans residing in the Community Living Center and Veteran's Village homes. Interns will receive exposure to numerous specialty areas, including Memory Care/Dementia Specialization, Palliative Care, Mental Health Recovery/Geropsychiatry, Physical Rehabilitation, and Long-Term Care. Interns will provide services in the part-time Adult Day Health Care, leading cognitive stimulation groups and providing support to caregivers. Interns will participate in our outpatient Geriatric Clinic, which provides cognitive screening and behavior management recommendations in a multidisciplinary setting.

Interns will develop and refine their intervention and assessment skills with an aging population (Veterans over the age of 60). Veterans will have varied presentations that include comorbid psychological, neurocognitive, and physical needs. Interns will have opportunities to utilize behavior, reminiscence, meaning centered, and cognitive stimulation therapies in both individual and group formats. Interns will conduct psychological and cognitive evaluations to assess for mood symptomology, decision-making capacity, and behavior management planning. Interns will receive training in STAR-VA, an evidence-based behavior management program, and will have the opportunity to provide education to staff on behavioral interventions and implementation of these plans. Interns will work closely with multidisciplinary teams to provide collaborative and Veteran-centered care.

Health Psychology

Focusing primarily on Veterans with medical conditions and Veterans who are surgical candidates, interns in this placement learn to rapidly assess and develop interventions for the psychological components of various disorders, using such modalities as individual, group, marital and family psychotherapy, biofeedback, pain/stress management, hypnosis, and relaxation training. Developing the skills to coordinate psychological interventions with medical treatment and family resources is a major focus. This rotation is comprised of three placement options.

1. Primary Care-Mental Health Integration (PCMHI)

Potential Supervisors: [Dr. Brandy Mysliwiec](#); [Dr. Brett Kuykendall](#)

Description: The philosophy of PCMHI is one of "population-based care," which is consistent with the primary medical care model, in which a small number of non-specialty services are provided to a large number of people. Goals of this integrated biopsychosocial model of care include increased access to behavioral health consultants who provide rapid feedback, early recognition and brief interventions of mild to moderate severity mental disorders, and improved collaborative care and management of patients with biopsychosocial issues within the primary care setting.

Interns in this placement function as interdisciplinary team members across all eight primary care teams and urgent care clinic to assist the primary care physician (PCP), nurses, social workers, nutritionists and pharmacists in managing the overall health of Veterans. The intern's role in this placement is to provide:

- Brief (30-minute) functional assessments with feedback reported directly to the referring provider
- Triaging to appropriate specialty mental health clinics
- Individual short-term problem/solution-focused, behavioral activation, and/or goal-setting interventions targeted to reduce symptoms, improve health, and increase quality of life

The basic treatment approach is based on brief patient interactions that focus on self-management of the presenting problems. Treatment typically involves addressing presenting problems such as mental health issues that can be treated in 4-6 sessions, including: mild to moderate depression, anxiety, PTSD (psychoeducation), adjustment disorders, bereavement/grief, relationship/marital concern, and diagnoses where the patient is having trouble coping with a psychosocial stressor. Additionally, behavioral health concerns will be treated such as: adjustment to medical condition, wellness interventions, sleep disturbance, sexuality, stress, tobacco use cessation, substance misuse, relapse prevention, weight management, chronic illness management, diabetes management, and difficulty with adherence to medical regimens. Treatment interventions are brief, evidence-based, educational/skills-based in nature, and emphasize practice and home-management. Interventions may include Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT), Motivational Interviewing (MI), Problem Solving Therapy (PST), or stress management. Referrals are generated from warm handoffs, formal and informal consultations, and positive screens on depression, alcohol, PTSD measures, etc. that are conducted by nursing during the Veteran's primary care visit.

2. Pain Management

Potential Supervisor: [Dr. Brett Kuykendall](#)

Description: This placement focuses on chronic pain patients including quick assessment and development of a pain intervention plan working in a clinic with a multi-disciplinary team. Practicum students in this placement develop skills in the various interventions for pain management including Cognitive Behavioral pain management; hypnosis, brief motivational therapy, ACT and Mindfulness strategies for pain. Treatment is provided individually as well as in a telehealth setting. The opportunity to co-facilitate a pain group may be available depending on patient need.

3. Health Promotion/Disease Prevention (HP/DP)

Potential Supervisor: [Dr. Stephanie Holt](#)

Description: Interns in this placement will have the opportunity to work as part of the Healthy Living Team, which incorporates our Health Promotion/Disease Prevention and Whole Health programs. Roles of interns include facilitating classes related to healthy lifestyle changes, such as

weight loss, tobacco cessation and management of chronic conditions. Interns may also provide evidence-based treatments in an individual setting, with particular focus on utilizing Motivational Interviewing strategies. Other individual practice involves completing psychological assessments for Veteran candidates for bariatric surgery, transplant procedures and spinal cord stimulators.

We provide opportunities to develop and present psycho-educational materials related to healthy living messages. Additionally, interns attend a variety of trainings (Motivational Interviewing, TEACH for Success, Whole Health for Clinicians) and then develop skills in order to help facilitate future classes which are provided for our medical staff members. The Health Promotion/Disease Prevention team works closely with providers, pharmacists, nurses and other staff members to improve their interactions and outcomes with Veterans.

Home Based Primary Care (HBPC)

Potential Supervisor: [Dr. Bridget Tribout](#); [Dr. Patricia Smithmyer](#)

Description: This placement is located within the Home-Based Primary Care program providing psychological services to Veterans who are essentially home bound due to medical conditions. At Illiana, the population served ranges in age from the fifties through end of life, primarily within rural settings. The clinical needs vary greatly with a predominance of adjustment, anxiety disorders, mood disorders, and cognitive disorders. The intern is expected to function within a multidisciplinary team and can expect close interaction with the members of the HBPC team. Working with the HBPC Psychologist, the intern will conduct brief psychological evaluations for mood, cognition, and adjustment, more comprehensive assessments when indicated, and may develop a small therapy caseload. Working with our team and within the Veterans' homes is very rewarding, clinically challenging, and an experience unlike office-based clinical practice.

Inpatient Psychology

Potential Supervisor: [Dr. Konrad Biedron](#)

Description: Psychologists in Inpatient Psychiatry function as independent members of the interdisciplinary treatment teams that include psychologists, psychiatrists, social workers, nurses, and auxiliary therapists from specialized services. Veterans on the inpatient psychiatric unit have a variety of mental health concerns, including severe and persistent mental illness, major depressive episodes, and substance abuse disorders. As interdisciplinary team members, interns develop the skills to make contributions to their patients' individualized treatment plans and take responsibility for providing the psychodiagnostics, psychotherapeutic, and case management services necessary for patients' discharge and maintenance in the community. Differential diagnosis and assessment skills will be used widely in this placement.

Neuropsychology

Potential Supervisor: [Dr. Michelle Drzewiecki](#); [Dr. Julia Fitzgerald Smith](#)

Description: The Neuropsychology Clinic provides screening and comprehensive evaluations of psychological and cognitive functions affected by diseases and/or brain damage as well as remediation planning and follow-up services to Veterans and their families. Working from a flexible battery approach, interns learn to administer and score many standard neuropsychological tests, to design individual test batteries, to write interpretive reports, and provide feedback to Veterans/families. Referral questions include Neurocognitive Disorders, TBI, Multiple Sclerosis, Movement Disorders, and psychiatric conditions.

The full neuropsychology placement is offered only to those planning on pursuit of postdoctoral training in Neuropsychology or a career in Geropsychology. Those interns on the Neuropsychology Track will also have minor placements in Neuropsychology during their other two rotations with the length of time spent on the minor rotation determined by the involved supervisors and needs of the student (e.g. ½ day, full day, etc.) focusing on fellowship and board certification preparation. These experiences are designed to provide clinical experiences consistent with INS/Society for Clinical Neuropsychology, Division 40 guidelines for internship.

Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Clinic

Potential Supervisors: [Dr. Katie Keil](#); [Dr Brian McFarland](#); [Dr. Chelsey Siville](#)

Description: The PTSD rotation is only available to the intern who matches to the PTSD track. This placement is appropriate for those planning to pursue postdoctoral training in PTSD and/or a career in trauma psychology. Applicants to the PTSD track should, at a minimum, have strong generalist clinical skills and interest in treating trauma. In addition to full-time immersion in the PTSD Clinic during first rotation of training, interns on the PTSD track will also have a split PTSD placement during their second rotation. This will allow interns sufficient time to complete evidence-based treatment cases in the PTSD clinic, along with opportunities to pursue training in other areas of needed and complementary clinical skills. Interns on this track will learn to evaluate referrals to the clinic using interviewing and psychodiagnostics skills; this will include comprehensive training in the Clinician Administered PTSD Scale (CAPS-5). Interns become full-time members of the PTSD Clinical Team (PCT), accruing a caseload and providing a full range of services to Veterans and their families on an outpatient basis. It is likely that interns will also provide some care via telehealth modalities. Individual, group, and couple's treatment modalities are used to address both military and non-military traumas.

An important training goal will be to acquire and implement a model for understanding and treating trauma that effectively addresses the biological, psychological, affective, and moral injuries sustained from trauma exposure. Trainees will also develop a deeper understanding of some of the unique issues involved in treating military-related trauma, including combat and military sexual trauma (MST). Special emphasis is given to evidence-based treatments, including Prolonged Exposure (PE) Therapy and Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT). Based on interest

and availability, interns may also have the option of training in Cognitive Behavioral Conjoint Therapy for PTSD (CBCT-PTSD), Moral Injury Group, and Skill Training in Affect and Interpersonal Regulation (STAIR). The PTSD Clinic utilizes a team approach to training, allowing interns the opportunity to work with multiple staff members. For any interns interested in gaining experience in the treatment of PTSD who are not interested in the full PTSD track, opportunities to do so are often available on other rotations (e.g., BHIP or PR RTP).

Psychosocial Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program (PR RTP)

Potential Supervisor: [Dr. Melissa Horne](#)

Description: The PR RTP is a long-term (3-6 month stay depending on the Veteran's recovery goals), 36 bed (30 males, 6 female), residential rehabilitation program for Veterans enrolled in the VA Illiana Health Care System. The PR RTP mission is to provide Veterans with a bridge to a productive life in the community. Our goal is to increase the Veteran's chances for sustained recovery from exacerbated mental health symptoms and addiction while focusing on successful readjustment and reentry back into the community. Training experiences include completion of consults for awaiting admissions into the program, individual/group therapy, participation in Veteran led community meetings, participation in staff morning meetings, participation in treatment team meetings with individual Veterans and PR RTP staff for treatment planning, and collaboration with an interdisciplinary team.

Substance Abuse Rehabilitation Program (SARP)

Potential Supervisors: [Dr. Jeff Debord](#)

Description: While SARP is, by definition, considered a substance abuse rehabilitation program with a Rational Emotive Behavior Therapy (REBT) orientation, we prefer to think of the program as primarily an REBT program that happens to focus largely, though not exclusively, on substance use disorders. The full program is a six-week, intensive outpatient program, staffed by a psychologist/program coordinator and four addictions therapists. Veterans participating in SARP either commute from home on a daily basis, reside in our PR RTP, or stay at the Salvation Army or Danville Rescue Mission in Champaign and get bussed back and forth every day. We also offer alternative schedules for those who are unable to commit to the full program.

During a placement in SARP, interns will become familiar with Rational Emotive Behavior Therapy, conduct comprehensive intake interviews, facilitate and/or co-facilitate various groups and classes (e.g., anger management, self-esteem, cravings management, cue exposure, daily lecture, Seeking Safety), provide individual therapy, and gain some familiarity with basics of program management.

Outpatient Mental Health Community-Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC)

Bloomington CBOC Potential Supervisor: [Dr. Keena Peek](#)

Decatur CBOC Potential Supervisor: [Dr. Dynesha Mason Grissom](#)

Peoria CBOC Potential Supervisors: [Dr. Kyle Foskett](#); [Dr. David Weidner](#)

Springfield CBOC Potential Supervisor: [Dr. Nicole Terranova](#)

Description: Interns at the CBOCs will learn the role of the psychologist in an outpatient community setting while interacting with professionals from many other disciplines including, Primary Care, Audiology, Nursing, and Nutrition. Opportunities include: learning about evidenced based psychotherapies such as Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Insomnia, the Unified Protocol, & Prolonged Exposure; collaborating with a Nutritionist while implementing Stanford University's pain management curriculum; learning about the Home-Based Primary Care Psychology program; and participating in the VA's Progressive Tinnitus Management program in collaboration with an Audiologist.

Example Intern Placement Schedule

Track Student Name	Rotation #1 (4 months)	Rotation #2 (4 months)	Rotation #3 (4 months)
Standard Clinical Track Intern #1	BHIP	SARP BHIP (2 days)	Health
Standard Clinical Track Intern #2	Health Psychology	HBPC BHIP	BHIP Inpatient Psychology
PTSD Track Intern #3	PTSD	Inpatient Psychology PTSD (1 day)	SARP PR RTP
Neuropsychology Track Intern #4	Neuropsychology	Geropsychology Neuropsychology (1/2 day)	Inpatient Psychology Neuropsychology (1/2 day)
Neuropsychology Track Intern #5	Neuropsychology	Health Psychology Neuropsychology (1/2 Day)	HBPC Neuropsychology (1 day)

Additional Training Experiences

There is an assessment requirement for all of our interns during the year regardless of matching in the PTSD track, our Standard Clinical track, or our Neuropsychology track. Our training staff believe that both therapeutic and assessment skills are necessary tools for psychologists to have throughout their career. During the First Rotation, the interns will be asked to administer at least

two full WAIS-IVs to an actual Veteran along with other standard psychological measures while observed by a staff member in order to demonstrate administration competency. During the Second Rotation, the intern will then administer at least two WAIS-IVs, unobserved, to actual patients along with other standard psychological measures (e.g. MMPI-2/RF, WRAT, BDI, BAI, etc.) in order to complete integrative reports answering specific referral questions. Typical questions have included ADHD, learning disabilities, and looking at strengths and weaknesses for occupational or treatment planning. Interns are also required to demonstrate competence with the interpretation of the MMPI-2/RF. For all tracks, interns will participate in a Psychological Assessment Clinic approximately one day per month to complete these WAIS-IV and MMPI-2/RF assessment requirements.

Interns participate in a two-hour weekly generalist in-person intern seminar series weekly. Topics are selected on the basis of the needs and interests of interns, staff, and Veteran care needs. Members of the psychology staff, other facility webinars, and other hospital personnel conduct the seminars. They cover a number of areas, such as use and interpretation of major psychodiagnostics techniques, innovative psychotherapeutic approaches, psychoactive agents, psychopathology, ethical and professional issues, and issues of individual/cultural diversity. There is also a monthly interdisciplinary didactic that trainees and staff facility wide participate in covering medical and mental health topics.

There are also multiple other didactics throughout the week that are available, with some being mandatory for an intern's rotation. As an example, when on the Neuropsychology rotation, the intern is required to attend the bi-weekly neuropsychology didactics. Other training activities include interdisciplinary treatment team meetings, grand rounds, teleconferences, case presentations, hospital wide didactics, ombudsperson meetings, diversity journal club, webinars, supervision committee meetings, and Mental Health Service meetings. Psychology staff and interns are periodically invited to the training experiences organized by other disciplines, the entire facility, or outside agencies. Presentations worthy of note to psychologists have included Albert Ellis on Rational-Emotive Therapy, Edwin S. Shneidman on Suicide, Carl Whittaker on Family Therapy, Gordon Paul on Treatment Approaches for Chronic Patients, Madeline Kuhn on Aging, Domeena Renshaw on Sexuality, Francine Shapiro on Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing, Yossef Ben-Porath on MMPI-2, Paul Arbisi on MMPI2/RF, Elisabeth Kübler Ross on Death and Dying, Nadya Fouad on Multicultural Competency Guidelines, Paul Hauck on Overcoming Depression and Anxiety, and Carol Falender on Competency Based Supervision. Interns may also receive leave to attend special training opportunities at other sites.

Psychology interns are asked to participate in two committees during their time on internship, the Supervision Committee and the Diversity Committee. As part of the Supervision Committee meetings, interns will have the opportunity to provide their fellow interns with supervision on both therapy and assessment cases. During each meeting, one intern will present a case while another intern provide supervision. Supervising Psychologists and the rest of the intern class are also present during this time and provide feedback about the process and the supervision that was given during the meeting. This environment fosters the interns' ability to provide supervision and constructive feedback in a professional setting. As part of the Diversity Committee, interns

work to expand their knowledge and ability to discuss diverse topics in a professional setting. Interns take part in a monthly journal club and take turns leading a discussion about articles that they select. The Diversity Committee also works to provide education about important diversity issues in the medical center by providing a newsletter and diversity presentations for the facility.

Facility and Training Resources

Interns are provided with individual office space and secure networked computers necessary for Veteran care and administrative responsibilities. The most current psychological testing material is also available through the computerized record and various clinics. The VAIHCS Library provides employees and trainees with a variety of general, patient education and medical resources. Computer access to electronic resources is available via the VHA National Library.

Requirements for Completion

The internship is a one-year placement experience requiring 40 hours per week. The maximum number of training hours allocated is 2,000. Each intern is expected to devote 25% of their time to direct patient contact which includes "face-to-face" intervention for any type of group or individual therapy, psychological testing, rounds, or education. Successful completion of the internship requires a minimum of 500 hours of direct patient contact. Interns have the primary responsibility for seeing that they fulfill training requirements.

Interns will receive formal, written evaluations at the middle and end of each rotation from the rotation supervisor(s). Additionally, interns will be asked to provide written and oral feedback regarding their internship experiences at the end of each rotation and the year to the Directors of Internship Training.

It is expected that throughout the internship and upon completion of the program all interns will maintain good standing by achieving and demonstrating competence in the following sixteen general areas:

1. Professionalism
2. Individual and Cultural Diversity
3. Ethical Legal Standards and Policy
4. Reflective Practice/Self-Assessment/Self-Care
5. Relationships
6. Scientific Knowledge and Methods
7. Research/Evaluation
8. Evidence-Based Practice
9. Assessment/Diagnosis
10. Intervention
11. Consultation
12. Teaching
13. Supervision
14. Interdisciplinary Systems
15. Management-Administration
16. Advocacy

Administrative Policies and Procedures

Authorized Leave

The VA Illiana Health Care System's policy on Authorized Leave is consistent with the national standard. Intern applicants are welcome to discuss their questions or concerns with the Training Director.

Due Process

Our internship program follows due process guidelines to assure that decisions are fair and nondiscriminatory. All trainees are afforded the right to due process in matters of problematic behavior and grievances. A due process document is distributed to every intern in the internship training manual during orientation and subsequently reviewed with the Directors of Internship Training. The manual also contains information regarding expected performance and conduct, the evaluation process, procedures for making decisions about problematic performance and/or conduct, remediation plans including time frames and consequences for failure to rectify problems, and procedures for appealing the program's decisions or actions. A copy of our due process policy is available on request.

Privacy Policy

No personal information is collected from interns when they visit our website.

Self-Disclosure

We do not require interns to disclose personal information to their clinical supervisors except in cases where personal issues may be adversely affecting an intern's performance and such information is necessary to address these difficulties. Reasonable accommodations can be sought through Human Resources.

Training Staff

Konrad Biedron, PsyD

Position: Inpatient Psychology Staff

Bio: Dr. Biedron was raised in Chicago, where he remained to complete graduate school at Adler University. During his internship year, he decided to venture out and completed his internship at Broughton Hospital in North Carolina, where he trained to work with individuals with severe mental illness and the forensic population. He then returned to the Midwest to complete his postdoctoral fellowship in Milwaukee, and eventually found his way back to Illinois as a staff psychologist at the Illiana VA Medical Center in Danville. He makes frequent trips back to Chicago to stock up on local goodies and is always willing to share them with staff and students. He likes hiking and finding new places to enjoy a good meal. Clinically, he is interested in

severe and persistent mental illness, personality assessment, and trauma-informed care, particularly examining trauma through a developmental and attachment-based lens.

Jeffery Debord, PhD

Position: Substance Abuse Rehabilitation Psychologist and Program Coordinator

Bio: Dr. Debord, AKA “Jeff”, left his home state of Indiana for the wilds of Lawrence, Kansas in 1987 to start Ph.D. stuff. He came to Danville for internship to be closer to family and get training in REBT. He had planned to do a year here then head to Atlanta. However, during his internship, the Coordinator of the SUD program left, and they asked, “hey, you want the job?” That was in 1991 and he has been here since. Jeff tells people this is the only real job he has ever had. Anyway, if you work with Jeff, you’ll talk about New Orleans, Savannah, good books, music, and movies. Hopefully, you’ll learn something too.

Michelle Drzewiecki, PhD

Position: Neuropsychologist

Bio: Dr. Drzewiecki was born and raised in Northwest Indiana with Chicago in her backyard. She was driven by a desire to help others and initially pursued a career as an EMT. She soon discovered that the life of fast trucks and flashing lights was not for her, but through this experience she developed a passion for psychology. She completed her PsyD in clinical psychology at the Chicago School of Professional Psychology in Chicago, IL and ventured to the far west of Nebraska to complete internship. She returned to Chicagoland and completed an APPCN Neuropsychology fellowship at Edward Hines, Jr. VAMC. After tiring of the hustle and bustle of city life she journeyed to her current position at the Illiana VA where she enjoys working as a general neuropsychologist. She has specific clinical interests in the neuropsychological sequelae of medical, neurological and psychiatric illness as well as polytrauma/TBI. When she is not at the VA you can often find her chasing after her two huskies and/or enjoying the outdoors (hiking, kayaking, or relaxing in a hammock). If you need a lint roller during your internship year she probably has one...or five.

Stephanie Ericksen, PhD

Position: Chief of Mental Health; PTSD Psychologist

Bio: Dr. Ericksen grew up in the suburbs of Chicago, but now strongly prefers corn and soybean fields to the hustle and bustle of the big city. She graduated from the University of North Texas after completing an internship at VAIHCS and was hired as the Iraq/Afghanistan psychologist in the PTSD clinic upon completion of her internship in 2010. In 2016, she became the coordinator of the PTSD clinic. In 2020 she became the Chief of Psychology and 2021 the Chief of Mental Health. In addition to overseeing the functioning of the department, she is happiest when providing

evidenced based interventions to Veterans who have experienced military-related PTSD. When not working at the VA, Dr. Ericksen enjoys spending her remaining waking hours taking her children to their numerous sporting events and extracurricular activities.

Julie Fitzgerald Smith, PhD, ABPP

Position: Director of Internship Training; Neuropsychologist

Bio: Dr. Fitzgerald Smith was born and raised in lake country Minne-soota, lost the Fargo accent long ago, continues to love the movie, and she makes a mean tater tot hotdish. Graduated from the University of North Dakota with her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology after completing her internship at the Ann Arbor VAMC. Decided to stay out east in Michigan to escape the ND tundra and completed an APPCN Neuropsychology fellowship at Henry Ford Health System. Figured out Michigan was not any warmer than ND after a few years and both had massive amounts of snow so left for the tropics of Illinois where she finished her Board Certification (ABPP-CN). Her clinical interests include Assessment, Neurological diseases, and Neuropsychology. She loves most anything to do with brains and will pull students, Neuropsych focused or not, in from the hallway to look at MRIs or CT scans if she sees you passing by and she's looking at a fascinating image. She greatly enjoys working with her patients and teaching from 8-4:30 M-F and the rest of her time is spent on the water any chance that she gets.

Kyle Foskett, PsyD

Position: Peoria Community Based Outpatient Clinic Psychologist

Bio: Dr. Foskett received his Psy.D. in Clinical Psychology from the Illinois School of Professional Psychology in 2014 and has worked for VAIHCS since. He serves on the front lines at the Peoria CBOC, providing psychotherapy for a wide range of presenting concerns and diagnoses. He is especially interested in the treatment of Depression and PTSD and applies his background in Motivational Interviewing and Acceptance and Commitment Therapy in providing high-quality treatment to his Veterans.

Stephanie Holt, PhD

Position: Health Behavior Coordinator, Health Psychologist

Bio: Dr. Holt was born and raised in the St. Louis area and continues to bleed Cardinal red while living in Central Illinois. She graduated from Ball State University (where, incidentally, the mascot is the Cardinals) with her Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology and completed her internship at the fabulous VA Illiana in Danville, Illinois. After spending a year with supervisors, she enjoyed, she was able to join the team as a colleague at the Peoria VA Outpatient Clinic. She spent seven years working in the outpatient clinic and attending as many trainings as possible before joining the Health Promotion/Disease Prevention team and getting back to her love, Health Psychology. You will rarely find her in Mental Health as the vast majority of her work is done in Health

Promotion/Disease Prevention and Ambulatory Care. She loves the variety of her job, which could include teaching a class, organizing an event and completing a psychological assessment in the same day. Her clinical interests include motivational interviewing, clinical coaching, bariatric/organ transplant evaluations and evidence-based treatments. Her free time is spent juggling kids, family, friends, activities, coaching, traveling and figuring out where to travel to next.

Melissa Horne, PsyD

***Position:* Psychosocial Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program Psychologist**

Bio: Dr. Horne received her Psy.D. in Clinical Psychology from the Illinois School of Professional Psychology at Argosy University, Schaumburg in 2018. She completed her internship at State Operated Forensic Services in St. Peter, MN, where she provided therapy, assessment, and testimony regarding an individual's readiness for discharge to the community. She is the psychologist on the PR RTP, providing care for substance dependence, grief, depression, anxiety, and trauma. Her clinical interests also include forensics, pre-employment police evaluations, and severe mental illness.

Katie Keil, PhD

***Position:* PTSD Psychologist; Military Sexual Trauma Coordinator**

Bio: Originally from central Illinois, Dr. Keil completed her undergraduate degree at the University of Illinois before heading west to join the rank of Jayhawk (an odd but cheerful sneakered bird). She graduated from the clinical psychology program at the University of Kansas (2015) and got back to her roots for internship at VAIHCS. She so enjoyed the program and the collegiality amongst staff and was very glad to accept a job offer to join the PTSD Clinical Team. She's since worked as the Military Sexual Trauma (MST) Coordinator, providing trauma-focused treatment, advocating for MST survivors, and engaging VA staff and community partners via education and outreach. She loves her work and gets pretty jazzed about a good evidence-based therapy. In her free time, she can be found hiking, gardening, exploring local eateries (ask her about the best local Indian food and she'll become downright poetic about her love of samosa), and being dragged around on walks by her sweet but poorly trained dog. She may understand the principles of behaviorism, but her Rogerian-heart struggles in applying them to stubborn doggos - -- "So what I'm hearing is...you don't want to get off of the table."

Brett Kuykendall, PhD

***Position:* Pain Psychologist**

Bio: Dr. Kuykendall was born in Evansville, IN and raised in the tornado infested corn/soybean fields of central Illinois. Dr. Kuykendall is a disabled Veteran with chronic pain helping other Veterans with chronic pain. After nine months and eight days in the Illinois Army National Guard,

he decided he needed more of a challenge (and to get out of Illinois), so he jumped branches and enlisted active duty in the United States Marine Corps. Four years later, with a broken rib, arthritis in his neck and back, and deterioration in most of his joints he separated from service with an honorable discharge at a ripe old age of 22. He then worked a variety of jobs like dog training, industrial electrician, and Corrections Officer (he was 1 of 49 members serving in the Illinois Department of Corrections Honor Guard). After working, simultaneously, full-time as a Corrections Officer and going to school full-time to getting his bachelor's degree, he headed out of Illinois again and started grad school in Melbourne, FL at the Florida Institute of Technology. His graduate training focused on Integrated Behavioral Health in the Primary Care setting and, after completing internship and postdoc, he ended up right back in the tornado infested corn/soybean fields of central Illinois. Now, he does have another side of him. He's a family man with a wife and four kids. You will often see him shimmer in the light as he likely has glitter somewhere on his body, thanks to his daughters. He likes to joke and share stories, and at the end of the day he finds great enjoyment in his balance between work and family. To further his mix-match of characteristics he's also a nerd at heart and will enthusiastically explain the science behind everything he does.

Dynesha Mason Grissom, PhD

Position: Decatur CBOC Staff Psychologist (BHIP and PCMHI)

Bio: Dr. Grissom was born, raised, and educated in the Indianapolis, IN area. She completed her Masters in Marriage and Family Therapy at Christian Theological Seminary and her Doctorate at Indiana State University in Counseling Psychology (after completing her internship at the University of Illinois Counseling Center). She is currently completing a postdoctoral degree in Masters of Science in Clinical Psychopharmacology (MSCP). She will be seeking licensure as a prescribing psychologist in the state of Illinois. Dr. Grissom has over 20 years of experience in the field of mental health – serving diverse unrepresented and under-resourced populations and communities. She has worked in various clinical settings including community mental health agencies, inpatient psychiatric facilities, universities, private practice and now the VA. She enjoys spending lots of time with her family and has an abundance of hobbies. During the warmer months, after leaving work, she can be spotted cycling along the cornfields of Champaign, in her garden, or on a soccer field coaching her son to be the next Crystal Dunn – a forward, midfielder, AND defender! During the cold months, she can be found building snow men, sipping tea, crafting/sewing and overdecorating for the holidays.

Brian McFarland, PhD

Position: PTSD Psychologist

Bio: Dr. McFarland grew up in east central Illinois and is a graduate of Champaign Central High School, Parkland College, and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He received his Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from Stony Brook University in 2008. He completed his internship at the University of Alabama at Birmingham Psychology Training Consortium in 2008 and stayed

in Birmingham for 11 years as a psychologist on the PTSD Clinical Team at the Birmingham VA Medical Center. He transferred to the VAIHCS PCT in December 2019. His theoretical orientation is cognitive behavioral, with an emphasis on evidence-based psychotherapies for PTSD and depression.

Aaron Michelson, PhD

***Position:* Behavioral Health Interdisciplinary Program Psychologist**

Bio: Dr. Michelson spent his first 31 years of life in (hella) sunny California. He was born in the East Bay, grew up in Palo Alto, was a psychology undergrad at UCLA, and received his Ph.D. in clinical psychology at the Pacific Graduate School of Psychology (now known as Palo Alto University). His first serious foray out of Cali was his clinical internship at the West Haven VA in Connecticut, which really cemented his love for working with Veterans. (He does admit that he missed the sidewalks, temperate weather, bike lanes, and burritos back home though!) He then completed his post-doctoral residency in psychosocial rehabilitation at the Bedford VA in Massachusetts before coming here to VAIHCS. Working with a (traditionally underserved) rural Veteran population has been extremely fulfilling and valuable. Much of his past training experiences focused on serious mental illness, but he has always tended to gravitate towards deeper cognitive-behavioral approaches with a primarily humanistic focus. Although he is an ardent advocate of client-centered therapy over ‘therapy-centered’ therapy, he has specific interests in Acceptance and Commitment Therapy, Schema Therapy, and trauma-focused therapy (including Cognitive Processing Therapy). Psychotherapy research has always been his greatest passion, particularly research on process/outcome, common factors, integrative psychotherapy (including technical eclecticism), and client-therapy matching.

Brandy Mysliwiec, PsyD

***Position:* Primary Care Mental Health Integration Psychologist**

Bio: Dr. Mysliwiec is a true Midwesterner. Raised in South Bend, Indiana, she completed her doctorate at Central Michigan in 2018. After an internship with State Operated Forensic Services in St. Peter, MN, she swung back closer to home by accepting a position in Primary Care-Mental Health Integration at this VA. She and her husband recently bought their first home in Indiana, and she enjoys the cross-state (and cross-time zone) commute by re-listening to the Harry Potter series on audiobook. Beyond PCMHI, she has interests in Forensic Science, tap and jazz dance (all of which she minored in!), and movies, which were the theme for her wedding – complete with outdoor theater seating and films on the big screen.

Keena Peek, PsyD

***Position:* Bloomington Community Based Outpatient Clinic Psychologist**

Bio: Dr. Peek received both her Master's and Doctor of Psychology degrees in Clinical Psychology from Wheaton College (IL). She has had the privilege of working in a wide variety of clinical settings over the course of her career including community mental health, inpatient hospital programs, assisted living centers, private practice, and maximum-security prisons for both men and women. Hailing from Tennessee, she loves all things southern—including oppressive heat and humidity. Areas of professional interest include the neurobiology of attachment, various psychodynamic psychotherapies, sensorimotor psychotherapy for the treatment of trauma, and exploring effective strategies for reducing recidivism in formerly incarcerated individuals. She attempts to balance her coffee addiction with other more healthful activities including yoga, walking and the occasional venture into CrossFit. She enjoys art, all types of music and is in the process of learning French. She has four children, all of whom are adopted from Guatemala.

Chelsey Siville, PsyD

***Position:* Psychology Staff, PTSD Clinic**

Bio: Dr. Siville is originally from Indiana, and has spent almost equal years back-and-forth between there and Florida. She graduated from Indiana University with a master's and specialist degree in counseling psychology. After working for a few years as a therapist at an inpatient psychiatric hospital, she decided to return to school (glutton for punishment?) and received her Psy.D. in Clinical Psychology from the Florida School of Professional Psychology. A long-standing passion for working with Veterans and an aversion to intense heat and humidity led Dr. Siville back north to complete her internship at VA Illiana Health Care System (VAIHCS). She loved her time at VAIHCS so much that she accepted a psychologist position in the PTSD Clinic. Dr. Siville's clinical interests include trauma and related consequences, assessment, and women's mental health. Personal interests include almost anything plant related, binge-watching Netflix, drive-in movies in the summer, bonfires in the fall, and family time.

Patricia Smithmyer, PsyD

***Position:* Associate Director of Internship Training; Home-Based Primary Care Psychologist**

Bio: Dr. Smithmyer was born and raised in rural Northwest Ohio. Her love of older adults developed while working in a community nursing home during her high school years. After high school, she set out on the Lord-of-the-Rings style journey to become a Geriatric-focused psychologist (but she is still working on her wizarding powers). She completed her PsyD at Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio following her internship here at the VA Illiana HCS in 2014. She was offered a staff position here in Danville, Illinois and decided to trade the cornfields of Ohio for the cornfields of Illinois. She loves learning new things, meeting new people, and photography. She loves filmmaking and all things movie related. You will likely hear her quoting obscure movie lines over your internship year.

Nicole Terranova, PsyD

***Position:* Springfield Community Based Outpatient Clinic Psychologist**

Bio: Dr. Terranova was born and raised in northern Illinois. She received a Master's in Community Counseling from Argosy University in Chicago, then moved to Phoenix to get a Masters and Doctor of Psychology in Clinical Psychology at the Arizona School of Professional Psychology. Unfortunately, fate had other plans, and Dr. Terranova transferred to and graduated from the Chicago School of Professional Psychology in Washington DC. She completed her internship at Tennessee Valley Healthcare System in Nashville, and her postdoc in female trauma at the Hampton, Virginia V.A. She returned to Illinois to be by family and stop moving for a while. She is an active runner and member of OrangeTheory, and decreases stress by training for and running half marathons.

Bridget Tribout, PhD

***Position:* Home-Based Primary Care Psychologist**

Bio: Dr. Tribout spent most of her formative years on the East Coast, enjoying the ocean, diverse cultures, and some of the best tasting hot dogs on the planet (she still doesn't know how those magical street vendors do it!). She then left for the unknown territory found between the West and East Coast (of which most people on the coasts know nothing) to pursue her PhD in clinical psychology at St. Louis University (Go Billikens!). Thanks to the outstanding generalist training she received at SLU and later at her APA internship at the Little Rock VA, she had the opportunity to work in many areas of psychology, including pediatrics, PTSD, and health psychology; she then made it to the other end of the spectrum and found Geriatrics! Geriatrics is where she landed nine years ago at VAIHCS and is where she plans to stay. She has fallen in love with the aging population and relates to them more and more each day. She has a passion for working with Veterans and their families, helping them to deal with diagnoses of dementia and other chronic health conditions commonly experienced in this population. She also has the honor of working with older adults in their home through Home-Based Primary Care. When she is not working with Veterans and caregivers, you can find her playing with my sassy and sweet little offspring, decorating (she loves her some Chip and Joanne!), or trying to train her new pony – that is, a two year-old, 110-pound St. Bermastiff (a St. Bernard and English Mastiff mix).

Robert Weise, PsyD

***Position:* Geriatrics Psychology Staff**

Bio: Dr. Weise was born and raised in Southern California. He received his PsyD from Loma Linda University in 2019. He completed his internship at the St. Cloud VA Healthcare System in St. Cloud, MN, where he worked in a variety of settings including PCMHI, RRTP, PRRC/Inpatient, Outpatient Clinic, SUD program, and the CLCs. Dr. Weise currently serves as a CLC/Geriatrics psychology staff member at the Illiana VA in Danville, IL. He utilizes an eclectic

theoretical orientation that combines aspects of CBT, Object Relations, Humanistic, and ACT/Mindfulness approaches. His clinical interests are focused on the older adult population, especially with cognitive impairment and challenges associated with end-of-life. His interests/hobbies include baseball, hiking, and lots of nerdy things.

David Weidner, PsyD

***Position:* Peoria Community Based Outpatient Clinic Psychologist**

Bio: Dr. Weidner received his Psy.D. in Clinical Psychology from Wheaton College in 2005. His clinical interests including insomnia, PTSD, tinnitus, and whole health. He has implemented various evidence-based groups at the Peoria CBOC, including Prolonged Exposure Therapy and the Unified Protocol in a group format. His current obsession is trying to understand the science of sleep as he works with Veterans to help them get a good night's rest!

Jinxin Zhang, PsyD

***Position:* Behavioral Health Interdisciplinary Program Psychologist**

Bio: Dr. Zhang was born in China and raised in New Jersey. She earned her Psy.D. from Nova Southeastern University in Ft. Lauderdale, FL. Dr. Zhang went on and completed her internship and postdoc at the Bedford VA in Massachusetts where she specialized in addictions and psychosocial rehabilitation. She briefly sought the warmer climates of the south at the Atlanta VA before deciding to break out of her east to south coast comfort zone and see what the Midwest is all about. Dr. Zhang currently serves as a BHIP Psychologist at VAIHCS. Her predominant theoretical orientation is third wave Cognitive Behavioral with some psychodynamic underpinnings. She has additional interests in meditation and mindfulness. She is an unapologetic foodie and plans her vacation stops around food. She also enjoys nature and yoga.